

【英検®2級】長文読解 3/10 〈夏期講習会〉

Name: _____ / Date: _____ Score: ____/8 ⌚ 8 min

A

From: Emily Brown <e.brown@greenhillhs.edu>

To: Ken Tanaka <k.tanaka@greenhillhs.edu>

Date: October 15

Subject: Final Preparations for the Cultural Festival

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Hi, Ken,

Thank you for staying after school yesterday to help prepare for our cultural festival. Everything is coming together, but there are still a few things we need to finish before Saturday. Since many parents and local residents are expected to visit, we want to make sure that every activity runs smoothly.

As you know, our class will be running an international food booth. We have already decided who will prepare each dish, and most of the ingredients have been ordered. However, one student became sick yesterday and will probably be absent for the rest of the week. Because of this, we need someone to take over her job of preparing the display and welcoming visitors.

I also checked the weather forecast this morning. It says there is a good chance of rain on Saturday afternoon. If that happens, some performances scheduled for the school yard will have to be moved into the gym. The teachers are discussing a new schedule now, but we may need extra volunteers to help move chairs and equipment quickly.

Could you also bring your camera on Saturday? We would like to take pictures of each class activity and post them on the school website next week. If possible, please arrive at school by 8:00 a.m. so that we can finish setting up before the visitors begin arriving.

Thanks again for all your help. I'm sure this year's festival will be a great success because everyone has worked so hard.

Best wishes,

Emily Brown
Class Representative

(1) Why does Emily think another student is needed?

- ① To prepare food for another class.
- ② To replace a student who is absent.
- ③ To clean the gym after the festival.
- ④ To teach visitors how to cook.

(2) Why might the schedule change?

- ① The school website is unavailable.
- ② Several teachers will be absent.
- ③ Rain may affect outdoor events.
- ④ Parents requested a shorter festival.

(3) What does Emily ask Ken to bring?

- ① A school map.
- ② Some cooking ingredients.
- ③ A camera.
- ④ Extra chairs.

B

The Benefits of Reading Fiction

Many people think of reading fiction simply as a way to relax or enjoy an interesting story. Although novels and short stories are certainly entertaining, researchers have found that reading fiction can also help people develop important skills that are useful in everyday life. For this reason, many teachers encourage students to read not only textbooks but also works of fiction.

One benefit of reading fiction is that it improves our ability to understand other people's feelings. When readers follow the experiences of different characters, they naturally begin to imagine how those people think and feel. As a result, they may become more patient and understanding when dealing with real people whose opinions or backgrounds are different from their own.

Reading fiction can also strengthen language skills. Because novels often contain a wide variety of vocabulary and sentence patterns, readers are exposed to expressions that they may not encounter in ordinary conversations. In addition, following a long story helps readers develop the ability to understand ideas that are connected across several pages rather than just a few sentences.

Of course, reading fiction requires both time and concentration. Many students today spend a great deal of their free time watching online videos or using social media, so they sometimes find it difficult to finish an entire book. However, experts suggest that even reading for fifteen or twenty minutes a day can gradually improve reading habits and make longer books easier to enjoy.

In the end, the greatest value of fiction may be that it allows readers to experience lives very different from their own. Although the stories themselves may not be true, the emotions, relationships, and challenges they describe often reflect real life. By seeing the world through another person's eyes, readers can deepen both their imagination and their understanding of society.

(4) According to the first paragraph, why do many teachers encourage students to read fiction?

- ① It helps students memorize textbooks more quickly.
- ② It develops useful skills as well as providing enjoyment.
- ③ It teaches students how to become professional writers.
- ④ It is easier to read than textbooks.

(5) How can reading fiction improve people's relationships with others?

- ① It helps them understand different people's feelings.
- ② It teaches them to avoid discussing difficult topics.
- ③ It encourages them to spend less time with friends.
- ④ It helps them persuade others to change their opinions.

(6) According to the passage, what is one advantage of reading long novels?

- ① Readers can avoid learning unfamiliar vocabulary.
- ② Readers become faster at writing stories.
- ③ Readers improve their ability to follow connected ideas.
- ④ Readers no longer need to study grammar.

(7) What advice do experts give to students?

- ① Read several books every weekend.
- ② Stop using social media completely.
- ③ Begin by reading for a short time every day.
- ④ Read only books recommended by teachers.

(8) What is the main idea of the passage?

- ① Fiction is valuable because it develops language skills and helps people understand others.
- ② Reading fiction is useful only for students who want to become authors.
- ③ Online videos provide the same benefits as reading novels.
- ④ Fiction should replace textbooks in school education.